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Health, Well-being and Social Inclusion of Transgender Immigrants and Asylum Seekers

The migrant transgender population is characterized by **specific needs for the very condition** of being a migrant or a refugee as a result of discrimination of sexual identity, that hold a distinct help request (Chàvez, 2011), deserving of an appropriate response.
It denotes a **double vulnerability**, which results in doubling exposure to discrimination: those linked to immigration or asylum seeking stigmas and those linked to one's sexual identity. These discriminations can be perpetrated both by the host community and by that of other asylum seekers and refugees (UNCHR, 2015).

As for the hosting community, transgender migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are liable to being **discriminated during the whole process of social inclusion** against while they are **looking for a job and/or accommodation**.
A couple of studies set in Holland in 2010 and 2015 about the employment status of transgender people show how the "prejudice" works on the job's field: indeed, half of the interviewed pool tells to have lost their job due to their gender identity (Kedde, Van Berlo, 2011), moreover, whereas a transgender person would find a job, there is a pay gap with the cisgender male population (Geijtenbeek, Plug, 2015).

These disadvantageous labour conditions seem to lead particularly those who don't have a legal status (Namaste, 2000; Goderie et al. 2002; Luit, 2013; Van der Pijl et al., 2018) and many of them are forced into prostitution or sex work for economic sustenance (Van der Pijl Y. et al., 2018).

Although work as sex worker is a regular source of income and it helps them to pay for their transgender-related healthcare needs (Namaste 2000), engaging with sex works could increase risks of **mental distress** and **social exclusion**.

The employment discrimination forces many transgender migrants/refugees to live their lives at the at the margins of society; moreover, it puts them "simultaneously in a vulnerable and quite often **invisible position**" (Van der Pijl Y. et al., 2018: p. 6).

The general supervisor of 'Il Nido del Colibrì'[1], Mr. Valeriano Scassa, reports about the differences between residing in villages or urban areas: "1) As it occurs in the countryside of Piacenza, the exclusion of transgender community is a matter of evidence and it does not depend on either the race or being involved in sex work; refugee and migrant people just live according to the model once they get to this place. 2) the people who are not out of the closet in their native countries do not have enough reasons to change their condition; they tend to reiterate the same actions".

In conclusion, given the complexity of conceiving the phenomenon, we **refer to the need to expand scientific research on the subject**, as to provide **adequate services** to the T, Q and + population of immigrants and asylum seekers, **thus facilitating their improved access to health and community resources.**

[1] LGBT intercultural space project promoted by Il Grande Colibrì and Spazio 2

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